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material entity." On the other hand, he is decidedly opposed to the doctrine of automatism held by some extreme evolutionists, closing his book with these words: "But we certainly should not, on this account, allow ourselves to be mentally paralyzed by a belief in the existence of a metaphysical gulf between what is termed the subjective and the objective—the 'Ego' and the 'Non-Ego.' Yet, even some believers in the philosophy of evolution have thus been led to deny the natural origin of conscious states, and have, as a consequence, found themselves forced to hold a doctrine of thoroughgoing 'Automatism'—one in which all notions of free will, duty and moral obligation would seem, from this theoretical basis, to be alike consigned to a common grave, together with the underlying powers of self-education and self-control."

As to the moral nature, Bastian believes that it originated in savage life, after society developed, and says nothing as to the possible existence of the germs in the animals below man.

MASON'S MICROSCOPIC STUDIES ON THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM OF REPTILES AND BATRACHIANS.¹—The author here deals with the form of the spinal cord, and especially that of its enlargement; the nuclei of the nerve cells, and variations in their shape, size, etc., in the same individual: the number of ganglionic bodies in the spinal cord, and their relations to the roots of the spinal nerves, and the difference, if any, which may be determined by sex. After stating the methods of preparation of his sections, Dr. Mason, as a result of very extended examinations of a large number of what we can testify to be beautiful sections of the spinal cord of the frog and different reptiles, concludes as follows:

1. The central canal of the spinal cord of frogs is more nearly cylindrical in shape than has been generally supposed. The oval contour is not seen in cross sections below the second pair of nerves, when the membranes are not removed before hardening.
2. The nuclei of the large nerve-cells are more generally oval in form than are those of the smaller cells.
3. The nerve-cells of the crural enlargement are as abundant as those of the brachial enlargement, if not more so. Their nuclei are larger, as are also the surrounding masses of protoplasm or cell bodies.
4. No difference in structure can be made out in the upper portion of the cord, corresponding with the sexual function in the male. The long-continued and violent tonic spasms of the anterior extremities, must be explained by local hyperæmia influencing the same structure as those which exist in the female.
5. The relation which is generally believed to exist between the

¹ *Microscopic Studies on the Central Nervous System of Reptiles and Batrachians.* The spinal cord of the frog, *Rana pipiens*, *Rana hylecina*. By JOHN J. MASON, M. D. (Reprinted from the *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*. Jan. 1880.) Chicago, 1880. 8vo, pp. 8.

so-called motor-cells and the inferior (anterior) roots, can be demonstrated in the frog more readily than in any other animal.

We shall look with much interest for future contributions by the author to our knowledge of the histology of the nervous system of the lower vertebrates, as it is a field greatly neglected in this country, Dr. Dean's monograph on the general subject not having been succeeded by similar works until the present time; these studies, moreover, have a great interest in connection with the views of Lewes and Bastian.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.—The Geology of Hudson county, New Jersey. By Israel C. Russell. (From the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, Vol. II, No. 2.) From the author.

The Antiquity of Man and the Origin of Species. By J. W. Dawson. (From the Princeton Review.) From the author.

List of papers communicated to the American Philosophical Society. By Pliny Earle Chase, LL.D. From the author.

The Mica veins of North Carolina. By W. C. Kerr, State geologist North Carolina. (From Transactions of the American Institute Mining Engineers, 1880.)

Topography as affected by the rotation of the Earth. By W. C. Kerr, State geologist North Carolina. (From Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc., 1873.)

Notes on the Vertebrata of the Pre-glacial Forest Bed Series of the East of England. By E. T. Newton, F.G.S. (Ext. from the Geological Magazine, Decade II, Vol. VII, No. 9, p. 424. London, 1880.)

Revision of the Land Snails of Palæozoic Era, with descriptions of new species. By J. W. Dawson. (From the American Journal of Science, Vol. XX, November, 1880.)

Bulletin of U. S. Geol. and Geog. Surv. Terrs. F. V. Hayden, Vol. V, Nos. 3, and 4.

Classification of the Cryptogams. By Alfred W. Bennet. Reformed System of Terminology in Thallophyta. By Alfred W. Bennett and George Murray. (From the Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science, 1880.) From the authors.

Nouvelles Recherches sur les Poissons Fossiles, découverts par M. Alby A. Licata en Sicile. Par M. H. E. Sauvage. From the author.

Sur un Reptile très perfectionné, trouvé dans le terrien permien. Par M. A. Gaudry. (From Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences, Oct., 1880.) From the author.

De la Nécessité D'Une Zoographie Apropos de la Phytographie de M. A. de Candolle. Par Dr. E. L. Trouessart. (Extrait du Journal le Naturaliste, No. 31, 1er Juillet, 1880.) From the author.

The Gold Gravels of North Carolina; their structure and origin. By W. C. Kerr, State geologist N. C. (From Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers.) From the author.

Report of the Committee Mutual Improvement Society of Queenwood College, 1880.

Ueber Geusers und nebenan entstehende verkieselte Bäume. Von Dr. Otto Künke. (From Ausland, 1880.) From the author.

Sur le Terrain silurien supérieur de la presqu'île de Crozon. Par le Dr. Charles Barrois. (Ext. Ann. Soc. Geol. du Nord, 1880.) 8vo, pp. 12, 1880. From the author.

On the Structure of the Orang Outang. By H. C. Chapman, M.D. (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1880.) 8vo, pp. 16, pls. 7. From the author.

The Placenta and Generative Apparatus of the Elephant. By Henry C. Chapman, M.D. (Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci., 1880.) 4to, pp. 10, pls. 4. From the author.

Beiträge zur Palæontologie von Oesterreich-Ungarn. Edited by Dr. Edm. von Mojsisovics and Dr. M. Neumayr, 1880. Prospectus. From the editors.